

[HB22-1107 Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities \(IHEO\):](#)

Western Slope Initiative



BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In 2008, the *Federal Higher Education Opportunity Act* launched a national initiative to provide inclusive college programs for students with intellectual disability (ID). Joining the movement in 2016, *Colorado SB-0196* established three pilot inclusive higher education (IHE) programs, resulting in students with ID fostering academic growth, social development, career development, and greater independence.

As a result of *HB22-1107*, Colorado launched the Inclusive Higher Education Opportunities Grant Program to fund the development of additional IHE pathways across Colorado colleges. Today, joining the 320+ programs nationwide, Colorado offers eight inclusive higher education options at the following institutions of higher education:

- Arapahoe Community College
- Colorado State University
- Lamar Community College
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- Pikes Peak State College
- Regis University
- University of Colorado Colorado Springs
- University of Northern Colorado

While IHE has continued to expand in Colorado, the increasing number of students with ID from the Western Slope are still largely underserved. To address the existing equity gap throughout rural Colorado, the duration of legislative funding from HB22-1107 is reserved for a Western Slope college or university to develop an inclusive higher education pathway.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- This grant cycle will only be awarded to **one** public institution of higher education on the **Western Slope** of Colorado to be used throughout a 4-year development period.
 - The recipient will receive an initial \$267,000 grant to begin program development (years 1-2). IN! and a dedicated advisory committee will work to raise remaining funding needs (years 3-4). **Program development costs vary by institution, often ranging from \$300,000-\$400,000. IN! will work with grantees to establish a sustainable budget.*
 - Startup grant funds pay for needed staff positions and expenses. [See program development proforma for example budget.](#)
 - The recipient must commit to developing a high quality IHE pathway that is founded upon [Colorado's model four pillars of support](#): academic growth, social development, career advancement, and increased independence.
 - The recipient will receive
 - Regular technical assistance and program guidance meetings with IN! Staff
 - Best practice research and materials, including connection with national subject matter experts
 - Resources and expertise from other IHE program staff and college personnel (administrators, faculty, etc.) through participation with the Colorado Inclusive Higher Education Consortium
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TIMELINE

- Fall 2024: Engage in informational meetings with interested institutions
 - Spring 2025: Identify grant recipient and complete grant agreement
 - Fall 2025: Recipient begins program development planning year
 - Fall 2026: Recipient launches IHE program with first cohort
 - Spring 2027: Recipient participates in ongoing evaluation and program refinement
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Interested Western Slope institutions of higher education should [schedule an informational meeting with IN! Staff at this link](#) or email info@inclusivehighered.org with questions. Visit inclusivehighered.org/expansion for more information.